

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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SY-03 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-02

NIC-01 USSS-00 CU-04 EB-11 WRD-03 DOTE-00 CAB-09 EA-11

ACDA-19 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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R 281504Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8243

INFO AMCNONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3465

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET US

SUBJ: US-ETHIOPIAN RELATONS; ETHIOPIAN PERCEPTIONS

REF: ADDIS 3418 PARA 8

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (ADDIS 2404) INEVIATABLE ALLEGATIONS OF AMERICAN ROLE IN ISTIGATING CURRENT ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL FLUX CROPPED UP AT EARLY STAGE OF EVENTS.

2. SINCE THEN WE HAVE IDENTIFIED NUMBER OF MAJOR VERSIONS OF THIS LINE. WE ARE THUS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ENGINEERED THE CURRENT TURBULENCE INTER ALIA (A) AS ISRAEL'S ALLIES TO AVENGE THE IEG'S RUPTURE ITS RELATIONS WITH JERUSALEM; (B) AS A SUCCESSION PLOY TO CLEAR THE DECKS FOR OUR CANDIDATE (ASRATE KASSA); (C) TO FORCE LAND REFORM; (F) TO HALT THE DETERIORATION OF THE ARMED FORCES UNDER THEIR FORMER LEADERSHIP; OR EVEN (G) TO PUNISH REFORMERS FOR OVERTHROW OF US-ORIENTED AKILILU CM.

3. WE INITIALLY TENDED TO DISCOUNT THE IMPACT OF THESE CANARDS BECAUSE WE FELT THAT THE PROFOUNDLY ETHIOPIAN  
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NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LED TO THE FALL OF THE

AKILILU CM WERE SELF-EVIDENT, PARTICULARLY TO ETHIOPIAN OPINION LEADERS. HOWEVER, WITH PASSAGE OF TIME AND ETHIOPIA'S MULTIPLYING DIFFICULTIES, TEMPTATION TO LAY BLAME ON OUTSIDERS (SOMALIS, SOVIETS, ISRAELIS, LIBYANS AS WELL AS US) FOR FAILURES WHICH HAVE LED EMPIRE TO ITS CURRENT STATE CLEARLY GROWING AMONG URBAN POPULACE. WE NOW EVEN FIND SOME WELL EDUCATED, KNOWLEDGEABLE ETHIOPIANS, INCLUDING HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS, PROFESSING BELIEVE THAT US MASTERMINDING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH AFFLICT THEM (E.G. STARTING REVOLUTION ACCORDING TO SOME; STOPPING IT PREMATURELY BY IMPOSING ENDALKACHEW ACCORDING TO OTHERS).

4. IN SEVERAL CASES PROPONENTS OF THESE VIEWS SUCH AS VICEMINISTER MARY TADESSE (SISTER OF EMERSON MAMO TADESSE) AND ADMIRAL INSKINDER DESTA, EMPEROR'S GRANDSON AND EX-DEPUTY COMMANDER IEN (WHO REPORTEDLY IS SPREADING LINE PER PARA 2(B) ABOVE) HAVE ONLY AXES TO GRIND. OTHERS NEED NO SUCH STIMULUS TO INVENT JUSTIFICATIONS TO SUIT THEIR PREJUDICES.

5. WE HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING TO USG PERSONNEL THE IMPORTANCE OF CAUTION AND PRUDENCE IN THEIR ACTIONS SO AS TO AVOID NOT ONLY INTERVENTION IN CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS BUT ALSO ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT EASILY BE MISCONSTRUED AS SUCH.

6. AS LIKELIHOOD OF JUDICIAL PROCESS AGAINST MANY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE AKILILU ADMINISTRATION (BOTH "OUTS" AND HOLDOVERS) GROWS, WE MUST ANTICIPATE THAT SOME OF THOSE UNDER FIRE WILL ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE US RESPONSIBILITY FOR ETHIOPIA'S PROBLEMS AS A DIVERSIONARY TARGET. WYMAN

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